



NAVAJO NATIONAL MONUMENT

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN • NEWSLETTER 1 • NOVEM-

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BEGINS GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATE-

The process to plan for the future of Navajo National Monument is just beginning. The purpose of the General Management Plan is to ensure that the monument has a clearly defined direction for resource preservation and visitor use for the next 15 – 20 years. This basic foundation for decision-making will be developed by an interdisciplinary team and in consultation with NPS staff, the Navajo Nation and other interested American Indian tribes, interested agencies and organizations, and the general public. Alternatives for management will be developed, and their impacts and costs will be analyzed in an Environmental Impact Statement.

The General Management Plan will meet laws and policies, and provide Navajo National Monument with a comprehensive framework, which will guide management decisions and let the public know how and why the monument is managed the way it is.

The first phase is to gather ideas and concerns, and confirm the purpose and significance of the monument. You are invited to tell us what you think on the response form in this newsletter or respond via the internet at the website listed below.

YOU
ARE
HERE

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS



GATHER IDEAS
AND CON-
CERNS

CONFIRM
PURPOSE
AND



IDENTIFY
DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

ANALYZE RESOURCES



DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES



DRAFT PLAN AND
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATE-
MENT



FINAL PLAN AND
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATE-
MENT

VISIT THE WEB SITE AT:

<http://www.nps.gov/planning/nava>

Or contact:

Superintendent James Charles

Navajo National Monument

HC 71, Box 3, Tonalea, AZ 86044-9704



OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- MEETINGS
- NEWSLETTERS AND RESPONSE FORMS

Why

was Navajo National Monument created?



LEGISLATION

1909 – Presidential Proclamation Establishing Navajo National Monument

To preserve “a number of prehistoric cliff dwelling and pueblo ruins, situated within the Navajo Indian Reservation, Arizona, and which are new to science and wholly unexplored, and because of their isolation and size are of the very greatest ethnological, scientific, and educational interest, and it appears the public interest would be promoted by reserving these extraordinary ruins of an unknown people...”

- Reserved about 160 square miles
- Warning given for unauthorized persons not to “appropriate, excavate, injure, or destroy any of the ruins or relics”

1912 – Presidential Proclamation Reducing the Size of Navajo National Monument

- Betatkin—160 acres
- Keet Seel—160 acres
- Inscription House—40 acres

1916 – Establishment of the National Park Service

- A system of National Parks and Monuments
- Conserve scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife.
- Unimpaired for the enjoyment of present

MONUMENT PURPOSE

- To preserve and protect and exceptional cultural and natural environments that have a continuous human history.
- To provide opportunities to contribute to scientific and ethnographic knowledge.
- To provide resource related educational and interpretive opportunities to the public.

MONUMENT SIGNIFICANCE

- The monument features some of America’s most intact cliff dwellings and associated artifacts from the Tsegi Phase. These represent specific short-term (1250 – 1300) A. D. adaptations of the Kayenta Anasazi people from their agricultural life in open valleys into the canyon environment.
- Keet Seel is the largest, most intact pre-Columbian feature in the Southwestern U.S. Its good condition has allowed scientific research to provide detailed theories about the sequence of construction and cultural dynamics. Keet Seel was built over time. Differing architecture reflects a life of movement and trading.
- The intact condition of Betatakin has allowed scientific research to provide detailed theories about the sequence of construction and cultural dynamics. Betatakin displays architectural continuity, which indicates it was a planned community.
- Much of the masonry of Inscription House is adobe and jacal; few other such Anasazi sites are known.
- The monument represents the ongoing presence of human populations within the canyon ecosystem for a 1500-year period.
- The monument’s region is central to the spiritual beliefs of many American Indian peoples, and has been and continues to be their home. The area is unique because it is the heart of Indian country. Since establishment of the monument, local people have been instrumental in its exploration, development, and management.
- Betatakin Canyon shelters a protected relic aspen/fir forest community of highly diverse flora and fauna, including endemic species, threatened or endangered species and species of concern. This remnant forest is theorized to be similar to the setting when Betatakin ruin was occupied
- Disconnected units away from roads have kept ruin sites remote, resulting in strong resource protection and a unique visitor experience centered on hiking and small guided groups.

WHAT

is a General Management Plan (GMP)?

CONTENT OF THE GMP

The GMP will address all of the legal requirements contained in the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978:

- Resource protection measures
- General development locations, timing, costs
- Carrying capacity analysis
- Boundary modifications, if necessary

The GMP will also be guided by NPS *Directors' Order 2: Park Planning*, effective May 27, 1998. The process will take a comprehensive approach to planning how resources, visitors, and facilities will be managed to carry out the mission of the NPS and Navajo National Monument. The decision making process will include logic, analysis, public involvement, and accountability.

- Focus mission, purpose, significance, goals
- Describe management actions guided by other mandates, NPS service-wide law and policy, Navajo Nation laws
- Analyze goals, issues, resources and offer alternatives for management, including management prescriptions
- Develop environmental impacts (natural, cultural, and socio-economic) for alternatives
- Consultation, coordination, and public involvement will be documented.
- Provide a decision-making foundation for *Strategic Plan* (5-years), *Annual Plan*, other implementation plans
- Identify and describe implementation plans

POSSIBLE TOPICS OF THE GMP

The National Park Service has identified some issues facing the monument which the plan may address. What do you think about these issues, and what other important issues should be considered in the plan?

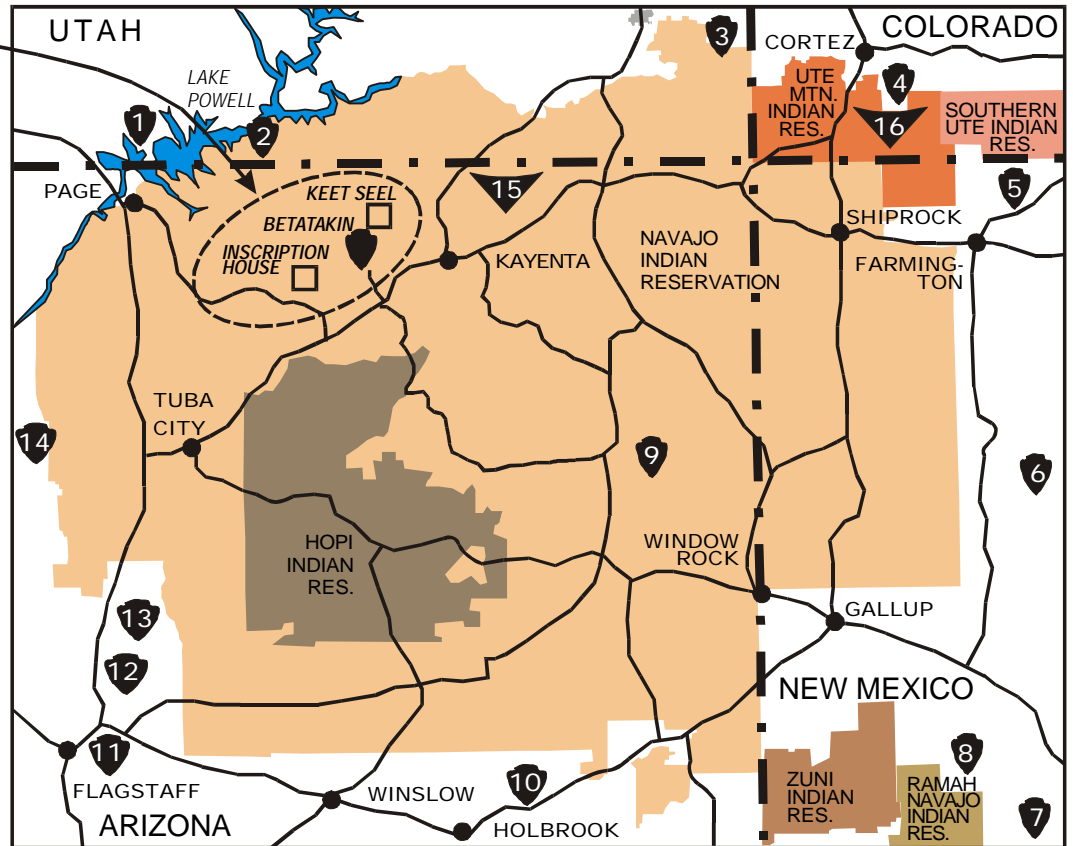
- **RESOURCE PROTECTION:** How can the important natural and cultural resources be best protected and preserved in concert with American Indian traditions and concerns?
- **VISITOR EXPERIENCE – KEET SEEL/ BETATAKIN:** Visitors to Betatakin and Keet Seel have an opportunity for a long hike and a small group tour led by NPS staff. What is the future desired visitor experience to these ruins, especially if demand grows?
- **VISITOR EXPERIENCE – SHORT:** Most visitors don't take the long hikes, but stop at the visitor center and walk short trails to overlooks. What is the desired future character of the shorter visitor experience, especially with increasing visitation?
- **INSCRIPTION HOUSE:** Inscription House has been closed to visitors since 1968. What is the desired future of this site?
- **FACILITIES:** What facilities are needed to meet the mission goals of Navajo National Monument regarding natural and cultural resource management, visitor use and interpretation, partnerships, and operations?
- **RELATIONSHIP WITH AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES:** How can Navajo National Monument develop and maintain good relationships, as well as explore new opportunities for partnerships, with affiliated American In-



Keet Seel

NAVAJO NATIONAL MONUMENT

-  OTHER NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AREAS
1. GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
 2. RAINBOW BRIDGE NATIONAL MONUMENT
 3. HOVENWEEP NATIONAL MONUMENT
 4. MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK
 5. AZTEC RUINS NATIONAL MONUMENT
 6. CHACO CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
 7. EL MAPAIS NATIONAL MONUMENT
 8. EL MORRO NATIONAL MONUMENT
 9. CANYON DE CHELLY NATIONAL MONUMENT
 10. PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK
 11. WALNUT CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT
 12. SUNSET CRATER VOLCANO NATIONAL MONUMENT
 13. WUPATKI NATIONAL MONUMENT
 14. GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK
-  TRIBAL PARKS
15. MONUMENT VALLEY NAVAJO TRIBAL PARK
 16. UTE MOUNTAIN TRIBAL PARK



REGIONAL MAP



- ☐ Please add my name to the mailing list
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Respond via the web or mail response form to:

**MSC NAVAJO GMP TEAM
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PO BOX 25287
DENVER CO 80225-9921**



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